



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Snake River Area Office
214 Broadway Avenue
Boise, Idaho 83702-7298

IN REPLY REFER TO:

PN-6308
WTR-1.10

November 7, 2001

Mr. Robert Ruesink
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1387 S. Vinnell Way
Boise, Idaho 83709

Mr. Brian Brown
National Marine Fisheries Service
525 NE Oregon Street, Suite 500
Portland, Oregon 97232-2737

Subject: Submittal of Reclamation's Amended Biological Assessment on Operations and Maintenance in the Snake River Basin Above Brownlee Reservoir

Dear Mr. Ruesink:

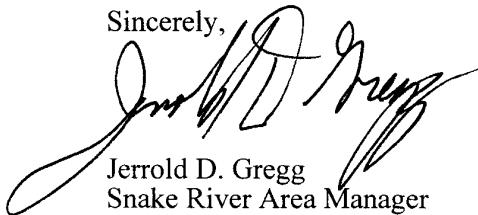
Please find enclosed an Amended Biological Assessment (BA) for Reclamation's operations and maintenance in the Snake River basin above Brownlee Reservoir. This Amended BA incorporates by reference the 1998 BA and updates it, as appropriate, to include new work and recently developed analyses. It supercedes Reclamation's 2001 Supplemental BA.

We are providing this BA, because the May 2, 2001, Biological Opinion (BiOp) provided by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) expires on April 1, 2002 under its own terms.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) issued a BiOp for operations and maintenance of the Snake River basin projects on October 15, 1999, that does not expire under its own terms. The Amended BA provides new information on ESA species designated by FWS. There is not a pressing deadline for completion of a new BiOp by FWS, because there is no material change in Reclamation's proposed action from that addressed in the FWS's 1999 BiOp.

If you have any questions regarding this Amended BA on the Snake River basin project operations and maintenance, please contact Rich Rigby, Endangered Species Act Coordinator, at 208-378-5092 or Ellen Berggren, Activity Manager, at 208-378-5090. We look forward to working productively with you during this consultation.

Sincerely,



Jerrold D. Gregg
Snake River Area Manager

Enclosure

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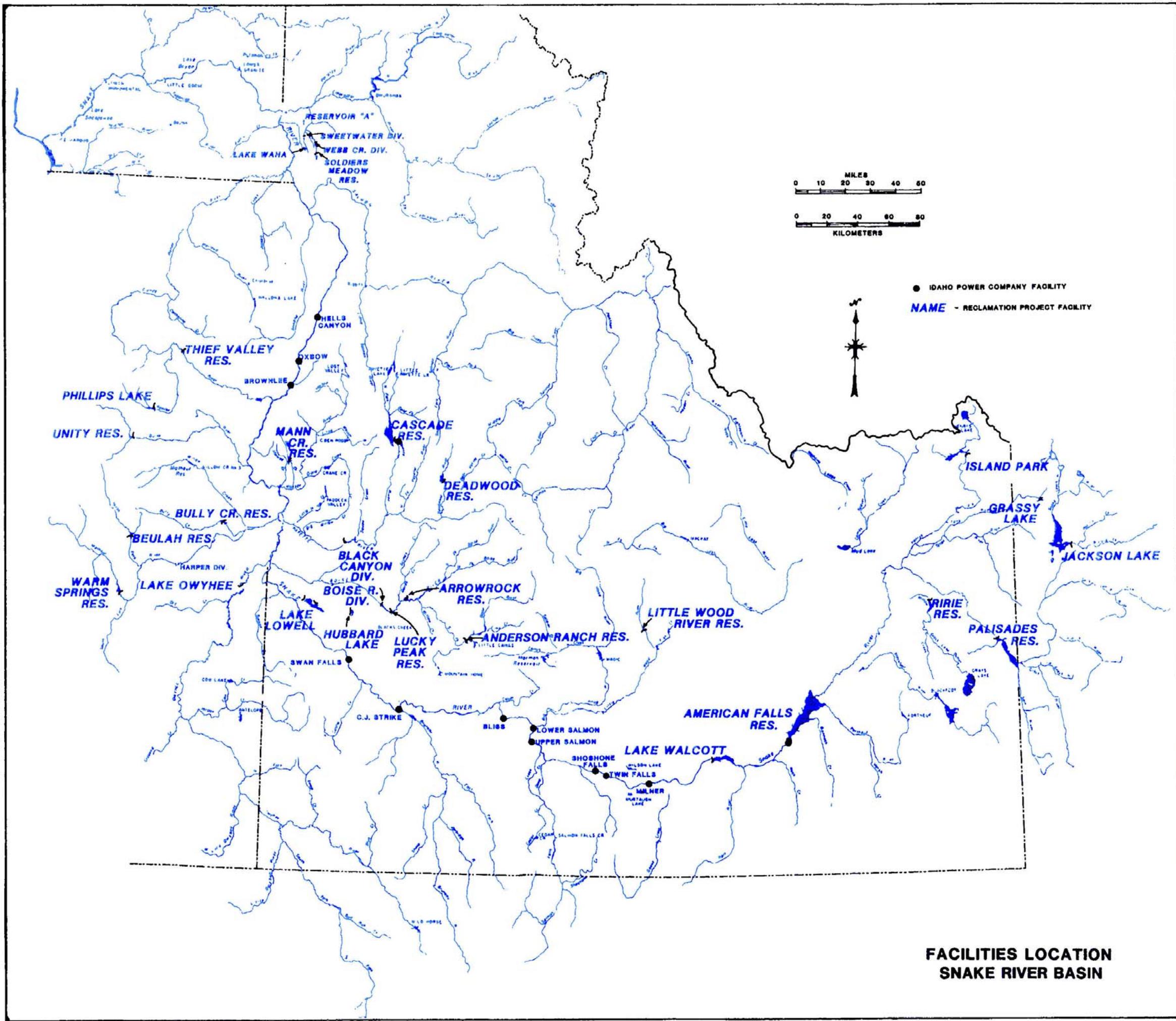
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**AMENDED
BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT
FOR
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE IN THE SNAKE
RIVER BASIN ABOVE BROWNLEE RESERVOIR**

7 NOVEMBER 2001

**U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGION
BOISE, IDAHO**



CONTENTS

1. OVERVIEW	1
1.1. PURPOSE	1
1.2. PROPOSED ACTION	2
1.3. GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE	4
1.4. HYDROLOGIC DESCRIPTION	4
1.5. FACILITIES	4
1.6. WATER-QUALITY OVERVIEW	4
1.7. ESA RELATED ACTIVITIES	5
1.7.1. Snake River Salmon and Steelhead Runs	5
1.7.2. Idaho Legislation	5
1.7.3. Decision on the Lower Snake Dams	6
1.8. ESA SPECIES	6
1.9. IRRIGATION DEVELOPMENT IN THE SNAKE RIVER BASIN	6
1.10. SNAKE RIVER RESOURCES REVIEW (SR ³)	8
1.11. CONSULTATION/CONFERENCE PROCESS	8
1.12. ARRANGEMENT OF THIS AMENDED BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT	8
2. PROPOSED ACTION, ONGOING MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS	11
2.1. INTRODUCTION	11
2.2. ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS	11
2.3. FACILITIES	11
2.4. GENERAL WATER PROJECTS OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE	12
2.4.1. Reserved and Transferred Works	12
2.4.2. Water Supply Forecasting and Coordination	12
2.4.3. Operating Strategies	12
2.4.4. Coordination with Other Entities	13
2.5. SALMON FLOW AUGMENTATION	13
2.5.1. Planning, Acquisition, Quantity, and Delivery Process	13
2.5.2. Reliability of Flow Augmentation	17
2.6. FACILITIES MAINTENANCE	18
2.6.1. General Maintenance	18
2.6.2. Anticipated Non-routine Maintenance Issues	18
3. RECLAMATION CONSULTATIONS UNDER SECTION 7 OF THE ESA	19
3.1. PREVIOUS CONSULTATIONS	19
3.2. ONGOING CONSULTATIONS	20
3.3. FUTURE CONSULTATIONS	21

AMENDED BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

4. NON-FEDERAL CONTEMPORANEOUS AND CUMULATIVE ACTIONS	23
4.1. IRRIGATION	23
4.2. POPULATION	23
4.3. MUNICIPAL AND INDUSTRIAL WATER	23
4.4. RECREATION	23
4.5. IDAHO STATE BULL TROUT PLANS	23
4.6. TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOADS	23
5. UPDATED INFORMATION ON SPECIES DESCRIPTIONS AND EFFECTS ANALYSIS	27
5.1. ESA-LISTED SPECIES ELIMINATED FROM DETAILED ANALYSIS	27
5.1.1. Black-footed Ferret	28
5.1.2. Canada Lynx	28
5.1.3. Mountain Plover	28
5.1.4. Christ's Paintbrush	28
5.1.5. Slick Spot Peppergrass	29
5.2. ESA LISTED, PROPOSED, AND CANDIDATE SPECIES EVALUATED	29
6. PEREGRINE FALCON	31
7. BALD EAGLE	33
7.1. STATUS, LIFE HISTORY, AND HABITAT REQUIREMENTS	33
7.2. ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE CONDITIONS IN PROJECT AREA	33
7.2.1. Snake River Basin above Milner	33
7.2.2. Anderson Ranch and Arrowrock Reservoirs	34
7.2.3. Lake Cascade and North Fork Payette River	34
7.3. EFFECTS ANALYSIS	34
7.3.1. Snake River in Wyoming	34
7.3.2. Snake River from Wyoming State Line to Milner Dam	35
7.3.3. Snake River from Milner Dam to Brownlee Dam	37
7.3.4. Boise River	37
7.3.5. Payette River Basin	40
7.3.6. Little Wood Reservoir	42
7.3.7. Mann Creek Reservoir	42
7.3.8. Lake Owyhee and Owyhee River Downstream	42
7.3.9. Powder and Burnt River Basins	43
7.3.10. Malheur River Basin	43
7.4. CONCLUSION	44
7.5. BALD EAGLE REFERENCES	44
8. GRIZZLY BEAR	47
8.1. EFFECTS ANALYSIS	47
8.1.1. Snake River in Wyoming	47
8.1.2. Henrys Fork	47
8.2. EFFECTS CONCLUSIONS	47
8.3. GRIZZLY BEAR REFERENCES	48

AMENDED BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

9. SALMON AND STEELHEAD	49
9.1. STATUS	49
9.1.1. Background and Overview	49
9.1.2. Listed Species Considered	50
9.1.3. Pertinent Water-quality Issues	51
9.2. SNAKE RIVER SPRING/SUMMER CHINOOK SALMON	52
9.2.1. Background and Overview	52
9.2.2. Environmental Baseline	53
9.2.3. Effects Analysis	57
9.2.4. Effects Conclusion	63
9.3. SNAKE RIVER FALL CHINOOK SALMON	63
9.3.1. Background and Overview	63
9.3.2. Environmental Baseline	64
9.3.3. Effects Analysis	65
9.4. SNAKE RIVER SOCKEYE SALMON	67
9.4.1. Background and Overview	67
9.4.2. Environmental Baseline	67
9.4.3. Effects Analysis	68
9.5. COLUMBIA RIVER CHUM SALMON	70
9.5.1. Background and Overview	70
9.5.2. Environmental Baseline	70
9.5.3. Effects Analysis	71
9.5.4. Effects Conclusion	71
9.6. SNAKE RIVER BASIN STEELHEAD	72
9.6.1. Background and Overview	72
9.6.2. Environmental Baseline	72
9.7. MIDDLE COLUMBIA RIVER STEELHEAD	74
9.7.1. Background and Overview	74
9.7.2. Environmental Baseline	74
9.7.3. Effects Analysis	75
9.7.4. Effects Conclusion	75
9.8. UPPER COLUMBIA RIVER STEELHEAD	76
9.8.1. Background and Overview	76
9.8.2. Environmental Baseline	76
9.8.3. Effects Analysis	76
9.9. LOWER COLUMBIA RIVER STEELHEAD	77
9.9.1. Background and Overview	77
9.9.2. Environmental Baseline	77
9.9.3. Effects Analysis	78
9.9.4. Effects Conclusion	78
9.10. UPPER WILLAMETTE RIVER STEELHEAD	78
9.10.1. Background and Overview	78
9.10.2. Environmental Baseline	79
9.10.3. Effects Analysis	79
9.10.4. Effects Conclusion	79

AMENDED BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

9.11. UPPER COLUMBIA RIVER SPRING CHINOOK SALMON	79
9.11.1. Background and Overview	79
9.11.2. Environmental Baseline	80
9.11.3. Effects Analysis	80
9.11.4. Effects Conclusion	80
9.12. LOWER COLUMBIA RIVER CHINOOK SALMON	81
9.12.1. Background and Overview	81
9.12.2. Environmental Baseline	81
9.12.3. Effects Analysis	81
9.12.4. Effects Conclusion	82
9.13. UPPER WILLAMETTE RIVER CHINOOK SALMON	82
9.13.1 Background and Overview	82
9.13.2. Environmental Baseline	82
9.13.3. Effects Analysis	83
9.13.4. Effects Conclusion	83
9.14. ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT (EFH)	83
9.14.1. Background and Overview	83
9.14.2. Effects Conclusion	84
9.15. SALMON AND STEELHEAD REFERENCES	85
 10. SNAILS	 89
10.1. STATUS AND GENERAL BACKGROUND	89
10.1.1. Status and Distribution	89
10.1.2. Geologic Background	90
10.1.3. Factors Leading to Species Decline	90
10.2. SPECIES DESCRIPTIONS	91
10.3. ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE	91
10.3.1. Species Distributions	91
10.3.2. Water Quality	97
10.4. EFFECTS OF PROPOSED ACTION	100
10.4.1. Basis of Analysis	100
10.4.2. American Falls Reservoir	101
10.4.3. American Falls Dam to Lake Walcott	102
10.4.4. Lake Walcott	104
10.4.5. Minidoka Dam to Milner Pool	104
10.4.6. Downstream from Milner Dam	105
10.5. SUMMARY OF EFFECTS CONCLUSIONS BY SPECIES	106
10.5.1. Utah valvata	106
10.5.2. Bliss Rapids Snail and Idaho springsnail	106
10.5.3. Snake River physa	106
10.6. SNAILS REFERENCES CITED	107
 11. UTE LADIES' TRESSES	 109
11.1. STATUS	109
11.2. EFFECTS ANALYSIS	109
11.3. EFFECTS CONCLUSION	110
11.4. UTE LADIES' TRESSES REFERENCES	110

12. BULL TROUT	111
12.1. STATUS, LIFE HISTORY, AND HABITAT REQUIREMENTS	111
12.1.1. Status	111
12.1.2. Life History	114
12.1.3. Habitat	115
12.1.4. Factors Contributing to Species Decline	116
12.2. ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE CONDITIONS IN PROJECT AREA	119
12.2.1. Boise River Basin	119
12.2.2. Payette River Basin	124
12.2.3. Malheur River Basin	125
12.3. EFFECTS ANALYSIS	127
12.3.1. Arrowrock Reservoir	127
12.3.2. Anderson Ranch Reservoir/South Fork Boise River Below Anderson Ranch Dam	128
12.3.3. Deadwood Reservoir	129
12.3.4. Beulah Reservoir	130
12.4. EFFECTS CONCLUSION	131
12.5. BULL TROUT REFERENCES	131
13. SPOTTED FROG	133
13.1. EFFECTS ANALYSIS	133
13.2. EFFECTS CONCLUSION	133
14. HOWELL'S SPECTACULAR THELYPODY	135
14.1. EFFECTS ANALYSIS	135
14.2. EFFECTS CONCLUSION	135
15. YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO	137
15.1. STATUS, LIFE HISTORY, AND HABITAT REQUIREMENTS	137
15.1.1. STATUS	137
15.1.2. Life History	137
15.1.3. Habitat	138
15.2. ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE CONDITIONS IN PROJECT AREA	138
15.3. EFFECTS ANALYSIS	138
15.4. EFFECTS CONCLUSION	138
15.5. YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO REFERENCES	139
16. SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ACTION EFFECTS	141
17. REFERENCES	149

FIGURES

Figure 10-1. The distribution of the four ESA-listed snails in the main stem Snake River.	93
Figure 17-1. “Facilities Location Map, Snake River Basin” (from Reclamation’s 1998 BA) <i>endpiece</i>	

TABLES

Table 1-1. ESA Federally Listed, Proposed, and Candidate Species Initially Considered for Consultation and Conferencing	7
Table 2-1. Reclamation Projects in the Upper Snake River Basin	12
Table 2-2. Water for Salmon Flow Augmentation	14
Table 2-3. Sources of Flow Augmentation Water	15
Table 2-4. Anticipated non-routine maintenance for reserved works	18
Table 3-1. List of Reclamation ESA Section 7 Consultations since 1998	20
Table 3-2. List of Ongoing ESA Section 7 Consultations	21
Table 9-1. Listed anadromous fish species considered	50
Table 9-2. Typical adult return reporting dates at lower Columbia and Snake River dams	51
Table 9-3. Dates used by fisheries managers to classify chinook salmon	51
Table 9-4. Spring/summer chinook salmon counts at Bonneville and Lower Granite dams	53
Table 9-5. Estimated adult wild spring/summer chinook salmon escapement to Lower Granite Dam ..	55
Table 9-6. Estimated number of natural-origin adult spawners plus recovery levels	56
Table 9-7. Seasonal flow objectives and planning dates for the main stem Columbia and Snake rivers	58
Table 9-8. Lower Granite Dam — 427 kaf flow augmentation scenario	59
Table 9-9. McNary Dam — 427 kaf flow augmentation scenario	59
Table 9-10. Estimates of current and expected median annual population growth rate (lambda)	61
Table 9-11. Number of adult and jack fall chinook salmon counted at Bonneville Dam and Lower Granite Dam	64
Table 9-12. Fall chinook escapement and stock composition at Lower Granite Dam, 1975-2000 ..	66
Table 9-13. Number of adult sockeye salmon counted at Bonneville and Lower Granite dams during 2001, 2000, and the 10-year average	68
Table 9-14. Adult Snake River sockeye salmon escapement Counts	69
Table 9-15. Number of chum salmon counted at Bonneville Dam, 1992-2000	71
Table 9-16. Number of years chum salmon flows are achieved over a modeled 50-year period ..	71
Table 9-17. Total and wild steelhead counts at Bonneville and Lower Granite dams, 1977-2001 ..	73
Table 9-18. Bonneville Dam adult steelhead A- and B-run count for 2001	73
Table 9-19. Estimate of abundance of Middle Columbia River steelhead ESU, 1977-1988	75
Table 10-1. Distribution of four species of snails listed under the ESA in the Snake River	91
Table 10-2. Snake River Water-quality Monitoring Summary	99
Table 10-3. Summary of water-quality data from Idaho Power Company C.J. Strike study	100
Table 10-4. Lowest Pool for American Falls Reservoir	101
Table 10-5. Summary of October 26-30, 2001 Utah Valvata Survey Results, RM 708-711)	103
Table 10-6. Summary of September-October 2001 Utah Valvata Survey Results	104
Table 16-1. Summary of Proposed Action Effects on ESA-Listed and ESA-Candidate Species ..	142

ATTACHMENTS

A. WATER-QUALITY MONITORING

*Table A-1. Current Reclamation Upper Snake River and Tributary Water-Quality Monitoring
Table A-2. 303(d) Listings and TMDL Schedule for Snake River Reaches and Major
Tributaries Affected by Reclamation Project Operations in the Upper Snake Basin*

B. SALMON FLOW AUGMENTATION

*Table B-1. Water Available for Flow Augmentation as Modeled by USBR August 2001
Table B-2. Water Available for Flow Augmentation if No Powerhead is Used*

C. MODSIM SIMULATION OF UPPER SNAKE RIVER PROJECTS

Operational Target Flows
Augmentation Demands and Entitlements
Last-to-Fill Rule
Water Bank

*Table C-1. Relationship of Hydrologic State and Water Bank Contribution
Flow Augmentation Results*

*Figure C-1. Annual Flow Augmentation by Water Year, 1920-1990
Irrigation Shortage Results*

Figure C-2. Variation of Exceedance Annual Irrigation Shortage

D. COMPUTATION OF FLOWS DOWNSTREAM FROM BROWNLEE DAM

AMENDED BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT
